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From the Land



Paul Newman Pledges \$500,000 to Nature Conservancy

Renowned actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward have long been known for their philanthropy toward a variety of charities. The Nature Conservancy is again the beneficiary of their generosity.

On October 19 the Connecticut Chapter announced a \$500,000 pledge from Paul Newman, who donates 100 percent of his after-tax profits from his Westport-based food company for educational and charitable purposes. Joanne Woodward chairs the chapter's capital fundraising effort.

"It's fun for us to be in the food business, but giving away the profits, the charity part of the firm, is the serious business," said A.E. Hotchner, who helped Newman launch his now famous salad dressing. "We take great pride not only in the quality of our products but in the good we are able to achieve through them."

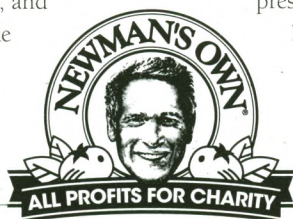
Since founding Newman's Own in 1982, Paul Newman has donated more than \$75 million.

"This is a very exciting gift, and an important leap forward for the chapter," said Chapter Chair Anthony P. Grassi of Wilton, who announced the gift. "Paul

Newman and Joanne Woodward have been generous supporters of the Conservancy for many years, but this is a truly monumental donation, for which we are deeply grateful."

The gift, which will be made over five years, will provide crucial support to chapter programs. The chapter has not yet designated the funds for specific use.

Newman's Own, which produces popcorn, salad dressing, lemonade, salsa and pasta sauces, has supported The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter's work since 1990, including contributions to the Tidelands of the Connecticut River program, the Burnham Brook and Chapman Pond preserves in East Haddam, and the Devil's Den Preserve in Weston and Redding. This is the company's largest gift to the Conservancy to date.



Option Signed on 5.6 Acres on Pratt/Post Cove

Gershon Horowitz and Suzanne M. Haig of Deep River have granted an option for The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter to buy 5.6 acres on Pratt Cove in Deep River.



Pratt Cove, Deep River

The exclusive option protects the property from being sold for six months except to the Conservancy. According to the terms of the option, the Conservancy will pay \$107,500 for the property. The Conservancy is now fund-raising for this purchase.

The property is south of Essex Street and southeast of Pratt Cove. Because they are excellent

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WINTER 1997

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Supplement

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Votes of Confidence

Members who know The Nature Conservancy and other non-profit organizations understand how much we rely on unrestricted gifts.

Donations to our operations come in all sizes, from the heartening steadiness of our thousands of \$25-per-year members, to stalwart support from our Acorn members at \$100 to \$999 and from our Charter Oak Council at \$1,000 and up, to the spectacular generosity of Newman's Own's pledge, which we announce in this issue.

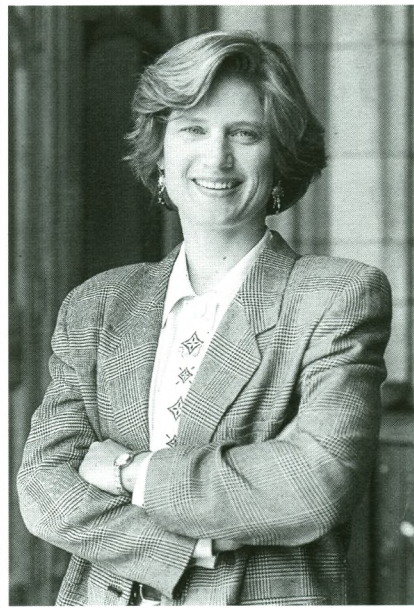
These unrestricted gifts help us in three crucial ways. First, they make all our day-to-day operations possible, covering everything from staff salaries to computers to the electric bill, all of which contribute to the major conservation victories you read about in *From the Land*. Second, they give us freedom to set an ambitious agenda and plan ahead, thereby making us a more efficient and effective organization. And third, they are an important vote of confidence, giving us inspiration, momentum and grass-roots support as we work toward our goals.

It is hard to imagine the Connecticut Chapter succeeding in protecting a piece of land without every member of the staff contributing in some way—in some cases over a period of many years. For example, when the Conservancy purchased the 207-acre addition to the Selden Creek Preserve in Lyme in 1995, it was the result of a relationship of many years based on patience and trust between our land protection staff and Ferdinand W. Coudert, who made the land available to us at a bargain price.

The chapter first purchased 55 acres nearby from Coudert in 1986, with the

help of a \$50,000 challenge grant from the Connecticut River Gateway Commission and many other private donations. At the same time, the chapter received a donation of an adjacent 46-acre conservation easement from Coudert. During the intervening years, the chapter's stewardship staff managed that land, and demonstrated to Ferdinand Coudert that the Conservancy is a good neighbor.

© Michael Marsland



Well before either of these purchases, the chapter's scientific staff, working in partnership with the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Database, had established the importance of this land to the federally threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucophalus*) and several rare plant species found in the adjacent marshland. The chapter's government relations program also maintains close ties

with DEP, which obtained approval from the state Bond Commission to provide \$250,000 toward the second Selden Creek purchase, a 207-acre tract separated from 600-acre Selden Island State Park only by Selden Creek.

Thanks in part to the work of the chapter development staff, the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation of Meriden provided a \$500,000 challenge grant toward the purchase of the property, and the John & Kelly Hartman Foundation made a \$250,000 grant, the first major gift to meet this challenge.

And finally, none of these programs could have fulfilled its role without our administrative staff keeping our computers working, our finances in order, and other vital parts of our office functioning.

We strive to make all of these programs work efficiently through a rigorous planning and budgeting process employed nationally by the Conservancy. During this process we plan as ambitiously as we can for the months' and years ahead, while never forgetting our fiscal realities. Every unrestricted dollar we receive makes it easier for us to put together a program that will have profound and long-lasting effects for conservation.

Perhaps most important, the unrestricted gifts we receive tell us our supporters understand our mission, believe in it as strongly as we do, and are willing to make a significant commitment now to help us fulfill it. As we pursue that mission every day, we are grateful to know we are not alone.

— DENISE SCHLENER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Total Transactions	Total Acres Protected	Members	Corporate Associates
WORLDWIDE	17,405	9,065,000	794,227	1,850
CONNECTICUT	662	20,9931	18,037	34

Burnham Brook Gains 80 Acres in Salem and East Haddam

The chapter's Burnham Brook Preserve grew by 80 contiguous acres in East Haddam and Salem last December thanks to the donation of a conservation easement from Marian Bingham.

The Salem resident donated the easement on the 55 acres in Salem and 25 in East Haddam on December 30 and 31, respectively. The property, which is just south of the intersection of West Road and Woodbridge Road, is adjacent to the eastern corner of the chapter's 821-acre Burnham Brook Preserve, adding significantly to the corridor of protected land in the area. Running through the property is Bingham Brook, a tributary of Strong's Brook, which in turn feeds into the Eightmile River.

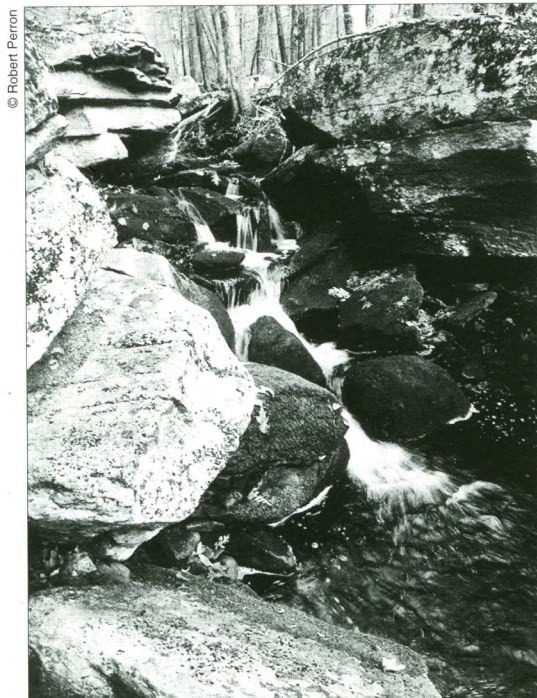
"Marian Bingham has made a very generous contribution of a conservation easement on this valuable piece of land," said Chapter Executive Director Denise Schlener. "We are very pleased to be able to protect another parcel in this crucial area."

A conservation easement—in Connecticut called a conservation restriction—is a legal agreement a property owner makes to restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on a specific piece of property.

Marian Bingham says she decided to donate the easement last spring while visiting an area on which a conservation easement had been donated by George and Cynthia Willauer of Lyme. When she realized she did not have to give up ownership of the land to ensure its protection, she decided to act.

"Do what your heart leads you to do, and others will do the same," she said, adding a quote from Yoda, the wise alien from the Star Wars movie trilogy: "Try, what is try? It is do or not do."

The upland woodlands and feeder stream on this property provide valuable buffer for the existing preserve and help ensure the high quality of the tributaries of the Eightmile River, an



The Burnham Brook Preserve.

important tributary of the Connecticut River. Protecting the watershed of tributaries to the lower Connecticut River is vital to preserving the tidal marshes of the lower Connecticut River. The Tidelands of the Connecticut River is one of the Conservancy's 40 international "Last Great Places."

— JOHN MATTHIESSEN

Chapter Signs Option on Pratt/Post Cove

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examples of freshwater tidal marsh harboring at least two plant species listed as rare in the state, Pratt Cove and nearby Post Cove together are a core site in the Tidelands of the Connecticut River program.

This heavily wooded, rocky site is a buildable lot with more than 1,000 feet of frontage on the tidal high water line of Pratt Cove. Developing it could have had a tremendous impact on the adjacent tidal marsh.

This property is not adjacent to other Conservancy land at the site. The chapter plans to close soon on a critical 3.48 acre parcel on Post Cove, bringing the chapter's total holdings at the site to approximately 6 acres. An additional 24 acres are owned by the town, the state Department of Environmental Protection, and the Deep River Conservation Trust.

Gershon Horowitz and Suzanne M. Haig are Conservancy members. In 1992 they registered this property with the Natural Heritage Registry, a voluntary, non-binding program in which owners of environmentally significant land agree to notify the Conservancy if they perceive a threat to the land, or are ever interested in selling it.

Pratt and Post Coves include pristine freshwater tidal marshes that provide habitat for a number of state listed plant species, including golden club (*Orontium aquaticum*) and arrowleaf (*Sagittaria montevidensis* ssp. *spongiosa* & *Sagittaria subulata*).

The coves are separated only by a stretch of marsh bordering the Connecticut River, and include numerous submerged aquatic plant beds that provide feeding and spawning habitat for fish. Wild rice grows in abundance, attracting many species of migratory birds, such as the declining black duck. Mink have also been sighted in the area.

Iroquois Pitches in for Marsh Restoration

Last summer's fears of mosquito-borne diseases along the southern New England coast drew attention to the importance of wetlands restoration projects, several of which have been performed the past few years under a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Department of Environmental Protection, with a major assist provided by the Iroquois Gas Transmission System of Shelton. Besides reducing mosquito populations, these projects also enhance the restored tidal wetlands as habitat for fish and birds.

In 1992, Iroquois Gas Transmission System donated \$148,000 to Ducks Unlimited to purchase a zero-gravity amphibious excavator, with the understanding that the machine would be donated to the Fish & Wildlife Service for an initial restoration project at Silver Sands State Park in Milford. Since then, the Fish & Wildlife Service has worked with DEP's Wetlands Restoration Unit, which has provided staff, equipment, and transportation for the excavator, to repair more than a dozen coastal wetlands totalling 307 acres.

Many of our tidal wetlands were degraded over the past several decades by misguided attempts to control mosquitoes by ditching and draining marshes, and by constrictions on water flow by road culverts. The amphibious excavator and other machinery are used to restore original salt water flows into marshes. They can be used in these sensitive areas since they put about the same pressure per square foot on the marsh vegetation as would a person.

The increased salt water that flows into restored marshes increases fish populations, which not only consume mosquito larva but also provide greater food supplies for wading birds. Higher salinity levels in tidal waters also control and even reverse the spread of *Phragmites australis*, the common reed whose aggressive expansion in wetlands concerns many ecologists.

— DAVID SUTHERLAND

"Walking Lightly on the Land"

Active and artistic at age 87, Adele Erisman's fondest wish is to be remembered as someone who "walked lightly on the land."

She will also be remembered as someone who created a lasting conservation legacy.

A decade ago she informed The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter that she and her late husband Robert, a writer and editor, were devising their home and surrounding five acres to the Conservancy, and the adjoining 65 acres to the North Stonington Land Alliance as a preserve.

The Conservancy's five acres encompass Adele's beloved wildflower garden, which has evolved over the 45 years since she and Robert moved to North Stonington from Noank. The wood and rue anemone, blood-root, and large-flowered trillium visible in early spring along the woodland paths later yield to a succession of native flora including foamflower, pipsissewa, and turtlehead. In May and June the woods proliferate with her favorite pink lady's slipper.

Adele's involvement with environmental issues extends beyond her own land. Her talk 20 years ago to the Stonington Garden Club helped lead to the founding of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic, where a butterfly garden has been created in memory of her husband. In 1959, while working on a project with ecologist Frank Egler, she attended one of the initial organizing meetings for the Connecticut Chapter convened by Dick Goodwin; the chapter was founded the following year.

Some years ago Adele made a gift to the Conservancy's Long Term Income Fund. Recently she's found useful the increased



Adele Erisman in 1959.

income available from gifts in exchange for Charitable Gift Annuities. Adele has chosen to benefit the Conservancy because its mission is "a very concrete, satisfying thing." She feels "inspired by the Conservancy's inventive way of trying to save whole ecosystems." However, she is disappointed by Connecticut's "abysmal ranking in state-owned open space compared to others in the region." An artist who has worked in several media, Adele resumed the study of watercolor this winter. Come spring, she looks forward to again working in her garden as she welcomes the re-emerging wildflowers and returning tropical migrants.

— CAROL KIMBALL

© Courtesy Iroquois Gas Transmission System



How Developed Land Helps Conservation

Although protecting land has always been the Conservancy's principal method of saving rare species, donations of land containing no significant habitat—even intensely developed land—can also help the Conservancy pursue its mission.

Because the chapter has a small staff for managing its preserves, it focuses as much as possible on protecting lands that directly support rare species. Many landowners have generously donated ownership or easements on valuable "preserve quality" lands to the Conservancy over the years, helping it build its network of nature preserves.

When a landowner makes such an offer, staff scientists conduct a field inspection and research the state's rare and endangered species data to assess whether or not the land would contribute to the Conservancy's mission. If it would not, the Conservancy puts the owner in touch with a local land trust or other conservation organization that acts as a steward of open space.

Generous donors occasionally offer other sorts of land, however, which is valuable as a "trade land." In this case, the Conservancy accepts the land gift with the prior understanding that it will be sold, with a conservation restriction where appropriate, and that the proceeds will be used to protect critical natural areas elsewhere in the state. Trade lands may be urban or rural, industrial, commercial or residential, developed or undeveloped, farmland or woodland.

Depending on the donor's needs, trade lands can be donated by several methods: outright, through a person's will by devise, through a charitable remainder unitrust or under a retained life estate agreement. The Connecticut Chapter has accepted land gifts

in all these ways.

In 1994 Theodore and Alice Gurney made an outright donation of their home in Glastonbury, which the chapter sold for \$340,000. A Southbury couple made two trade lands donations—a South Carolina condominium and a portion of their Vermont



© Barbara Ashley

Currently on the market: The 25 room 1906 Samuel B. Williams Mansion in Glastonbury, donated as a trade land by Dr. Samuel B. Rentsch Jr. to fund a Charitable Remainder Trust.

farm. Both properties were sold to fund a charitable remainder unitrust that provides lifetime income to the donors and ultimately reverts to the Conservancy. Others have donated their residences to the chapter while retaining the right to live there; by prior agreement, the Conservancy may sell the property upon their death. Donors of land of any kind to the Conservancy are entitled to a charitable contribution tax deduction. 🌿

If you would like information about these and other types of charitable gifts, please contact the chapter's Planned Giving Officer Carol Kimball at (860) 344-0716.

Connecticut's Northwest Corner: Geology is the Key

When trying to understand the biological importance of Connecticut's northwest corner, it is essential first to grasp the region's geologic history.

The geologic foundation of this landscape has a fascinating history dating back more than 400 million years. The rocks to the northwest of Cameron's Line (a major geologic fault running from southwest to northeast from Ridgefield to Hartland) are a complex assortment of terrains representing the once eastern boundary of the North American continent, its offshore shallow marine margins and exotic terrain that was thrust into and up over the continental margin. Mountains the size of the current day Himalayas once delineated this region.

Today, resistant igneous and metamorphic rocks create the plateaus overhanging the softer limestone rocks, which are more susceptible to weathering. These same limestones are the once shallow offshore marine margins of the ancestral North American continent. The juxtaposition of these different rock types provide the unique variations in topography that characterize the northwest corner.

Similarly, the differences in soil and water chemistry between the more acidic igneous and metamorphic rocks and the alkaline marbles provide the foundation for a rich assortment of plant and animal communities, home to more than 150 rare and threatened species.

The area's more recent glacial past is no less significant to the makeup of the landscape that we see today. While colliding landmasses and plate tectonics are responsible for much of the structural bedrock geology, glaciation contributed significantly to the rocky till soils and local landforms. Dams of glacial debris formed present day and historic lakes, including the lake that once occupied the lowland that today is Robbins Swamp in Canaan, the state's largest inland wetland and a conservation priority for the chapter.

The region's high elevations (as high

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Partner Profile: The Burlington Land Trust

Farewell to Beth!



© Carol Kimball

Biological Monitoring and Management Specialist Beth Lapin left the chapter in August to study and work part time. Beth began her work for the Conservancy in the late 1970s in

California, and held her first regular job with the Conservancy in Colorado from 1979 to 1983 as zoological and data manager for the state natural heritage program. In 1983 Beth went to Puerto Rico to work for a year as an advisor on the natural heritage program the government of the island was starting. In 1984 Beth took over as director of science of stewardship in the Connecticut Field Office, a position she held for seven years. In 1991, Beth changed jobs to biological monitoring and management specialist.

A youngster tests the equipment at the Sunny Valley Preserve in New Milford at Open Farm Day on Oct. 12. More than 1,200 people attended this year's event to pet farm animals, sit on the equipment, take hay rides and pick pumpkins.



© John Mathiesen

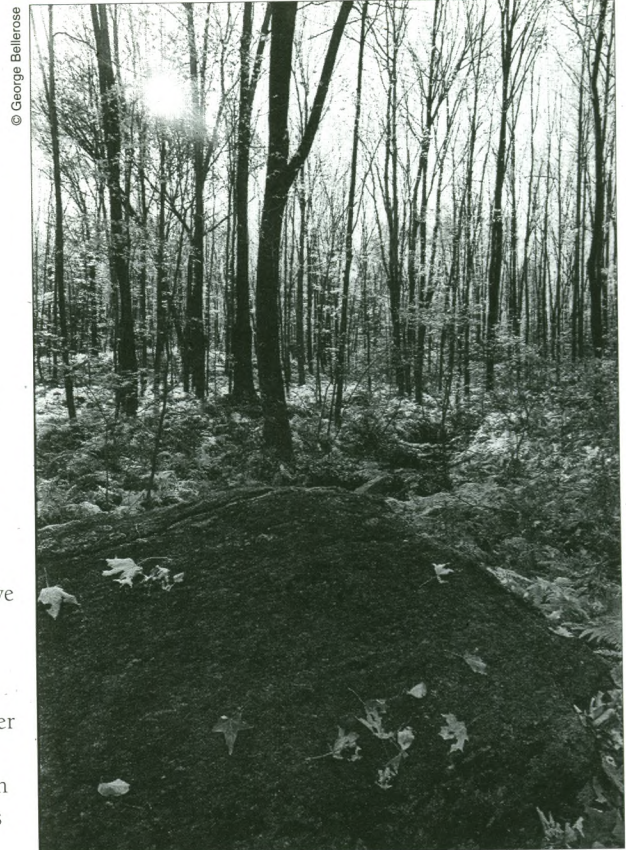
One of the results of the chapter's many years of work is a portfolio of nearly 60 preserves owned throughout the state. As part of our management efforts, each preserve has an individual preserve monitor assigned to help oversee it. As it can be difficult to monitor the day-to-day activities at each preserve, in recent years we have entered into management agreements with local land trusts.

One of the first agreements was initiated in August 1994 with the Burlington Land Trust at Taine Mountain. "The preserve is magnificent open space, and the land trust is very pleased to be managing it," said Abby Doolittle-White, a board member of the eight-year-old land trust.

The 185-acre Taine Mountain Preserve is crossed by the Tunxis Trail (part of Connecticut's blue-blazed trail system) and is surrounded by a number of houses. By working with the land trust, a group of motivated volunteers dedicated to protecting the town's open space, the chapter is able to increase the number of hours spent on the preserve tremendously. This arrangement ensures that the chapter will be able to respond quickly to any problems at the preserve such as the need for trail maintenance or boundary posting, littering, or prohibited uses such as camping or hunting.

Moreover, public relations efforts by the land trust create a greater awareness of the preserve in town and provide a feeling of local ownership on the part of preserve neighbors.

Land trusts provide a local perspective on preserve issues, an abundance of volunteers and a base of good will in the community, all of which are vital to managing a preserve like Taine Mountain. With its experience in land



© George Bellerose

The Taine Mountain Preserve, where the chapter has a management agreement with the Burlington Land Trust.

stewardship, legal issues and problem solving. The Nature Conservancy provides assistance to the land trust, which not only benefits the Taine Mountain preserve, but the overall efforts of the Burlington Land Trust in town.

As we protect additional key natural areas throughout the state, the Conservancy will continue to rely on partner organizations to help provide the ongoing stewardship essential to all our preserves. Our thanks to the Burlington Land Trust and all groups that assist in maintaining our preserves; the work is greatly appreciated! 🌿

— DAVID GUMBART

TIDELANDS OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER

one of the last great places

© John Matthiessen



Phragmites australis, the invasive and prolific common reed.

Maintaining the health and integrity of the tidal wetlands of the lower Connecticut River is one of the key goals of the chapter's Tidelands of the Connecticut River program, as well as one of the main responsibilities of the chapter's science and stewardship staff. A crucial component of this task is the control of invasive species that can spread throughout the marshes and reduce their biological diversity.

At the Chapman Pond Preserve in East Haddam, the common reed (*Phragmites australis*) is one of the nuisance species the chapter has been battling for 10 years. Earlier efforts focused on cutting and removing plants in an effort to keep it from spreading. However, considering the prolific root system of this plant, it was acknowledged that cutting was only a stopgap measure; without it, however, the reed would certainly spread, so many volunteer work days were held to keep it at bay.

In an attempt to eliminate the common reed from the site altogether, the chapter is now working with the Department of Environmental Protection, which has new equipment for this purpose. In coastal areas, salt water can act as a natural deterrent to *Phragmites*, but in this first effort to combat it in a freshwater

THE PHRAGMITES STRUGGLE AT CHAPMAN POND

marsh system, the results are still inconclusive.

To quantify the effectiveness of the work, chapter staff counted the density of *Phragmites* and other wetland plants in square meter plots before work began. DEP then sprayed the area with herbicide and mulched the dead stalks to expose the wetland soils to sun. This allows the seed bank an opportunity to regenerate native plants in the absence of major competition from *Phragmites*.

This effort has taken place over the last two seasons and the preliminary results are encouraging. Only time will tell if the work will be a long term success, but faced with the alternative of an unhealthy monoculture—domination of an area by a single species—the Conservancy will be sure to continue participating in such promising invasive-plant control work.

— DAVID GUMBART

TIDELANDS SYMPOSIUM REVIEWS CONSERVATION VICTORIES

© John Mathiessen



Larry Bandolin of the Silvio Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge addresses the Tidelands Symposium.

The first Tidelands Symposium was a success, attracting more than 150 participants to Wesleyan University in Middletown last October.

Co-sponsored by the

Connecticut River Watershed Council, the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department at Wesleyan University and the Connecticut Chapter, the day featured presentations by 20 speakers on topics ranging from land use within the Tidelands area to the status and management of piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*), least terns (*Sterna antillarum*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

Leading researchers and land use planners working in this region spoke at the symposium. Dennis Wolkoff, vice president and special projects coordinator for The Nature Conservancy, gave the keynote speech in which he discussed the history of the Conservancy's conservation efforts on all 400 miles of the river. Chapter Vice Chair Evan Griswold did an excellent job in summarizing the day's speeches and in charging those who attended with work remaining to be done.

The symposium provided an opportunity for municipal officials, planners, land trust activists, the academic community, area land owners and the general public to increase their understanding of the ecological significance of the Tidelands area. In addition, the day provided the opportunity for interaction among these groups.

Support for the symposium was provided by Northeast Utilities and the Silvio Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge. Plans are already in the works for another symposium that will likely focus on several key topics instead of the general overview provided by the 1996 symposium.

— JULIANA BARRETT

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDIES THE TIDELANDS

by Charlie Farrow

"A river runs through it" describes Connecticut School District 17, which includes Haddam Neck, Higganum, Haddam, and Killingworth. Because of the proximity of the Connecticut River, the eighth grade staff and students at Haddam/Killingworth Middle School have conducted a multi-faceted study of this great natural resource.

Last fall, the class read the "Tidelands of the Connecticut River" brochure* supplied

by The Nature Conservancy, and learned about salt wedges—the wedge-shaped intrusion of salt water up the predominantly freshwater river—and invasive species. In addition, Peter Smith of the Haddam Land Trust lectured on environmentalism and reviewed options on the clean-up of Higganum Cove. Of course, everyone enjoyed the special Camelot cruise to Essex and back on a perfect October day.

Because the school values interdisciplinary

Stephen Broderick, a former private consulting forester, is currently a University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension educator in forestry with more than 15 years experience working with private landowners through the Extension System.

Broderick is past chair of the Northeast Forest Resources Council, a member of the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, as well as the Connecticut Forest Stewardship Committee. He is also a director of the Connecticut Coverts Project, which teaches private woodland owners sound management practices for wildlife.

Within the Tidelands area, Broderick has been very involved in both the Chester Creek and the Eightmile River Watershed projects. Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Broderick and co-workers have done extensive analyses of the Eight-mile River watershed in terms of the area's forest resources and people's attitudes toward conserving these resources. (Because a river's watershed includes any land area that would ultimately drain into the river, a watershed may include a great deal of forest area.)

In the Eightmile River Program, information on the natural resources and land use of the area is being utilized to create watershed conservation goals. Through educational programs that involve actually

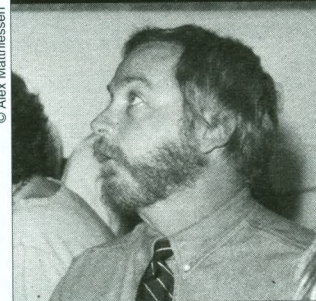
getting out into the forests, Broderick hopes to work with and educate both private forest land owners and natural resource professionals on how land use on their own property affects the surrounding ecological system of which it is a part. Ultimately, Broderick will then work with private forest land owners to develop forest stewardship plans that meet land owners' individual objectives and are also consistent with watershed conservation goals.

The Tidelands program is fortunate not only to have the UConn Cooperative Extension System as a partner, but also individuals like Steve Broderick who

are dedicated to finding a balance between satisfying an individual forest owner's needs and conserving the ecosystem for future generations.

— JULIANA BARRETT

TIDELANDS PARTNER PROFILE: STEVE BRODERICK



© Alex Mathiessen

Steve Broderick at the chapter annual meeting last October at which he received the chapter's White Oak Award.

SURGIN' STURGEON

instruction, there was a variety of basic curriculum components. Science classes studied water samples, seined for fish, developed models for the movement of pollution, and took part in Project Oceanology, an education program based at the University of Connecticut Avery Point campus in Groton. The history shared by the towns and the river became a social studies chapter. In math, the students produced charts, graphs, and maps related to the assembled data, and English classes read and analyzed primary sources, from works more than 150 years old up to contemporary writing. Before summer break arrives, *Hartford Courant* Science Writer Steve Grant will recap his canoe trip from the river's source in Canada to Old Saybrook. Tom Worthley and Heather Nelson of the UConn Cooperative Extension Service in Haddam will help the school better utilize the resources of its campus, which includes wetlands, a mill site, a portion of Ponsett Brook, and forest. Finally, students will develop projects based on the material studied, and the school will feature them at a "Tidelands for Middle Schoolers" conference in June.

The Connecticut River is the most visible and important natural resource connecting the lower valley towns. Understanding and protecting it is a complex task that draws from all educational disciplines. The members of the Haddam/Killingworth Middle School recognize the river's health is dependent on the sophistication and knowledge of succeeding generations and are taking steps today to make that happen. To learn more about this program, please call John Edmondson or Charlie Farrow at (860) 345-8567.

The author is an eighth grade teacher at Haddam/Killingworth Middle School.

* This brochure was created thanks to the state Department of Environmental Protection Office of Long Island Sound Programs' License Plate Fund. A free copy is available by sending a self-addressed envelope with 55 cents postage to Tidelands Brochure, The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, Conn. 06457. For multiple copies for schools or other groups, please call John Matthiessen at (860) 344-0716.

Tracking the population of shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) in the Connecticut River was one of a dozen research projects the chapter conducted or sponsored last year in the Tidelands region. The long-lived species (adults can live 50 to 75 years) is federally endangered, and knowledge of its abundance, distribution and movement will be helpful in protecting it. The Conservancy has funded an intern each of the last two years to work with Department of Environmental Protection Fisheries Biologist Tom Savoy.

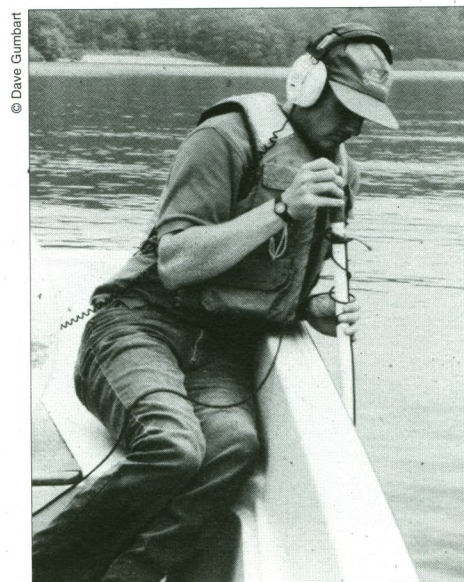
Work in previous years has seen adult sturgeon tagged with ultrasonic transmitters, allowing researchers to track movements using radio telemetry. In the 1996 field season, 22 sturgeon were captured, though no juvenile sturgeon were found. The importance of locating young fish (1 to 4 years old) is that it allows researchers to estimate whether or not sturgeon are successfully reproducing and thereby maintaining a viable population.

Estimates put the number of sturgeon in the entire Connecticut River at approximately 1,200 fish, 850 of which are located south of the Holyoke Dam in Massachusetts. However, the number of sturgeon in the Connecticut River is low compared to other riverine systems in the east, such as the Hudson.

We do know that some of the highest levels of activity in the Tidelands area are

recorded in the late spring and early summer as part of the sturgeon's post-spawning movements. This likely indicates the Tidelands area is a very important feeding area for the fish. Continued research will address questions of what habitat is essential to reproductive success, and what phase of the sturgeon's life cycle is most critical. By funding interns and working with partners at the DEP, the Conservancy will continue to support key research upon which to base protection efforts for the shortnose sturgeon.

— DAVID GUMBART



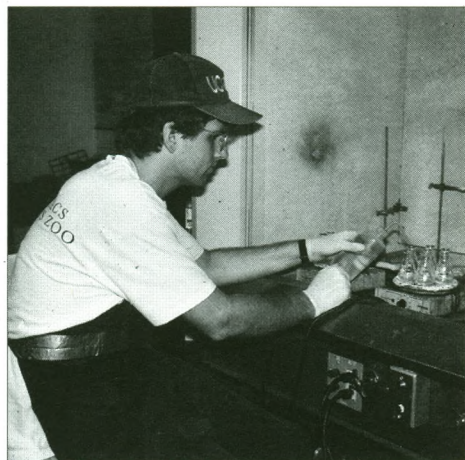
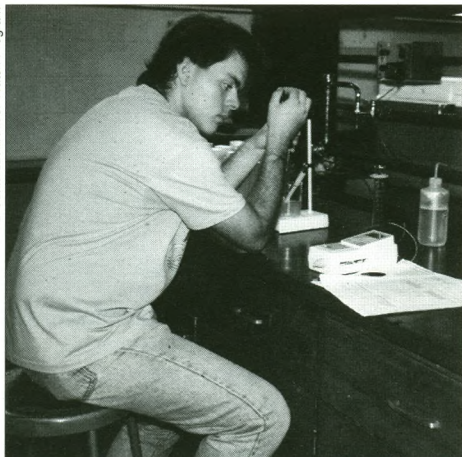
© Dave Gumbart

Above right: Chapter intern Tom Swenarton helps with radio tracking of short-nose sturgeons (Acipenser brevirostrum) on the Connecticut river.
Right: A short-nose sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum) captured live in the Connecticut River.



TIDELANDS WATER QUALITY MONITORING PARTNERSHIP

© Connecticut River Watch Program



Top: River Watch Volunteer Jack Nork working on a phosphorus test. Above: River Watch Volunteer Zach Fisk working on phosphorus and alkalinity tests.

The Nature Conservancy®

The Nature Conservancy.
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Dr. Juliana Barrett
Geoffrey C. Hughes Tidelands
Program Director

Last summer, the chapter teamed up with the Connecticut River Watch Program to launch a water quality monitoring initiative at four Tidelands sites. Chapter volunteers Joe Barber, Suzanne Burns, Carol Kimball, Ben Sullivan and Lisa Sullivan collected water samples weekly during July and August, and River Watch conducted the laboratory analysis of the samples.

River Watch is a volunteer water quality monitoring, protection and improvement program for the lower Connecticut River and tributaries. Community volunteers and water quality professionals collect and analyze river samples, assess river habitat and help to interpret results as part of a long-term effort to evaluate the health of local rivers and address water quality problems. It is sponsored by the Middlesex County Soil and Water Conservation District, based in Haddam.

Water quality in the main stem of the Connecticut River has been monitored for many years by a number of organizations, including the U.S. Geological Survey, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and River Watch, which have accumulated a considerable amount of information. A few decades ago, the river was referred to as "the best landscaped sewer in the nation." Fortunately, major improvement efforts, which centered on bacterial and other pathogens, suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand and trace metal pollution from point sources, have improved water quality significantly.

However, water sources for Tidelands core sites include not only the Connecticut River but also nearby tributaries and surface runoff from adjacent land. Land use in these local watersheds has an impact on the quality of water reaching the core sites, and detailed site-specific water quality information was not available.

Accordingly, the monitoring program focused on water sources other than the Connecticut River. Where possible, water samples were taken at locations on or near tributaries discharging into core sites. Sampling was conducted at four Tidelands sites: Salmon Cove, Whalebone Creek,

Hamburg Cove and Pratt and Post Coves. Conservancy members Paul and Mary Campbell and Charles and Dawne Scarlott, who have registered their land with the Natural Heritage Registry, generously permitted access to their properties for sampling.

The samples were analyzed for various physical, chemical and biological parameters, including dissolved oxygen, turbidity, total phosphorus, nitrogen and fecal coliform bacteria. These parameters can serve as indicators of the impacts of land use on water quality, particularly from factors such as improperly functioning septic systems, excessive use of lawn fertilizer, large impervious surfaces and activities contributing to erosion.

Analysis of the data is still underway, but an initial review does not indicate significant anomalies. For a few locations on some sampling dates, dissolved oxygen and phosphorus concentrations did not meet established standards or guidelines, but by relatively small amounts. Whether this is attributable to site-specific field conditions, such as low flow, tide stage or storm events, rather than land use factors, is not currently known. Further analysis should clarify this.

Ideally, a comprehensive Tidelands water quality monitoring program would involve year-round sampling and include more locations. Our more limited program provides a snapshot of water quality conditions during the summer of 1996 and establishes a baseline for tracking water quality as local land use changes. We plan to continue the program during the summer of 1997 and may fine-tune sampling locations and parameters to be analyzed.

Anyone interested in learning more about our monitoring efforts, including volunteer opportunities, should contact Bill Williams at the Connecticut Chapter at (860) 344-0716 or Jane Brawerman at River Watch at (860) 345-3219.

We appreciate the significant contribution by River Watch, the fine work of our enthusiastic volunteers and the access provided by landowners.

— BILL WILLIAMS

The Hidden Risks of Hazardous Waste

One of the greatest risks that organizations such as The Nature Conservancy face when purchasing land is environmental liability: the possibility of being held responsible for cleaning up hazardous waste we did not create. Individuals and organizations can be held liable for such costs even if they no longer own the land, and never knew it contained hazardous materials.

For this reason, 13 staff members of the Conservancy's eastern region met at the Sunny Valley Preserve in New Milford on November 4 to be trained in environmental liability assessment.

Environmental liability can arise when improperly handled or stored hazardous materials result in contamination. Property owners and managers, past and present, can be liable. To avoid this potentially costly liability, the Conservancy assesses the risk on all real estate prior to purchase or acceptance of a gift. The presence or history of hazardous materials on the property is researched by performing a site visit and records check and by talking with people who know the property. Hazardous materials include oil and fuel as well as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls—suspected carcinogens known to cause liver ailments and skin rashes) or chlorine-based solvents.

Conservancy Regional Attorney Ann Risso presented information on the legal background,

© Margaret McCauley



Pop Quiz: Do these fuel tanks at the Sunny Valley Preserve pose a hazard? Participants in Conservancy hazardous waste training knew the answer.

the Conservancy's hazardous waste policy and the standard assessment form. Environmental consultant John Adams of Rizzo Associates reviewed slides of sites containing visual clues which should prompt further investigation. He recommended questions to ask about the historic use of the site. A full assessment will determine the risks, and once the risks are known, the Conservancy can make an informed decision whether or not to take ownership of the property.

Finally, a walking field trip of the Preserve's farm facilities tested the participants' attention to detail. For example, the presence of vehicle fuel tanks, a machinery shop and fuel-heated buildings raised questions regarding storage and handling of petroleum products. Sunny Valley Preserve demonstrated that the presence of clues such as fuel tanks is not necessarily a concern when the risk can be minimized with proper on-site management. 🍀

— MARGARET MCCAULEY

© Thomas W. Beers



The chapter's first preserve in the state was at Beckley Bog in Norfolk, which was created with a 200-acre purchase in 1957, and since has grown to 655 acres. A critical conservation site in the Northwest highlands, the area provides habitat for five plants listed as endangered in the state.

Northwestern Connecticut: Geology is the Key

continued from page 5

as 2,380 feet) and distance from the milder coastal weather contribute to a climate that is generally cool, with a mean annual temperature of 46 degrees Fahrenheit and the greatest daily, seasonal and annual temperature fluctuations in the state. The northwest corner receives the most snowfall as well, averaging 90 inches, with a high annual precipitation of 50 inches. Even the prevailing winds are in contrast to other parts of the state, originating from the northwest year-round.

Abundant precipitation coupled with higher elevations generate an energetic hydrologic network, contributing surface and groundwater to unique assemblages of wetlands below. Depending in large part on local geology, the water in these wetlands tends to be either acidic or alkaline, a difference that strongly influences the nature of the wetland. The northwest corner supports high quality lakes and watercourses, calcareous rich fens and wooded swamps, and acidic bogs.

The major forest vegetation that characterizes this region is northern hardwoods (including sugar maple, beech and yellow birch), hemlock and white pine, with transition hardwoods such as northern red oak, basswood, white ash and black birch further to the south. Oaks and hickories, with the exception of northern red oak, are characteristic of more southern forests, and occur only on very dry sites in the northwest corner; they are otherwise uncommon in the region.

Similarly, there are a number of species that reach the southern extent of their range in this corner of the state, finding refuge in spruce bogs, shaded ravines and exposed mountain summits. Rare boreal and northern species found nowhere else in the state include the balsam fir, red spruce, hobblebush and a variety of sedges and herbaceous plants. 🍀

— JUDY PRESTON



In October, **David Gumbart** was promoted to assistant director of stewardship. Dave has been with the Conservancy since June of 1990, and previously held

the title of preserve steward. Many of his duties will continue, such as managing the Conservancy's portfolio of nearly 60 preserves in the state and working with volunteers to care for those preserves. In addition, Dave will be working to resolve legal issues and threats, coordinating the chapter's preserve transfer program, and working with our land protection staff on site evaluations and to draft language for conservation easement documents.

"I am fortunate to have a job that combines both indoor and outdoor responsibilities," Dave said. "I enjoy visiting the many beautiful preserves owned by the Conservancy throughout the state and the challenge of maintaining those sites."



Carol Krupa was recently promoted to the position of information systems manager. On staff since March of 1990, Carol was initially

hired as computer support specialist. In June of 1993, Carol became the chapter's network coordinator when a local-area computer network was installed. In her new position, Carol will work closely with regional and national staff as a member of the Conservancy-wide information systems team. In the year ahead, initiatives ranging from wide-area networking, internet access, and migration to a leading Windows-based software suite will be the focus as the organization continues to upgrade and standardize its information systems.

NEW STAFF



Suzanne Burns started as science & stewardship administrative assistant in October. Suzanne recently moved from Maryland where she was the staff assistant at the Conservancy's Maryland Chapter.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Two chapter staff members were recently appointed to committees in their respective areas of expertise.

Dr. Juliana Barrett, the Geoffrey C. Hughes director of the Tidelands of the Connecticut River Program, has been appointed to the Ecological Society of America's Science Committee.

Sunny Valley Preserve Director **Christopher S. Wood** has been appointed to the Connecticut Ornithological Association's Avian Records Committee, which reviews records of bird sightings in the state.

Misunderstood Insects are Fascinating and Beneficial

In the last From the Land, we learned how Ann Colson began studying dragonflies. Her story continues ...

Like many insects, dragonflies are widely misunderstood. Although they are extremely beneficial to people, both as consumers of biting insects and as indicators of water quality, they have been objects of fear and superstition for centuries. Once called "devil's darned needles," it was believed they could sew up the eyes and hair of the dead, or the mouths of badly-behaved youngsters.

Not true, but I can verify that they will nip the finger of a would-be collector, although they transmit no venom or disease. Odonata is Latin for "toothed," and adult dragonflies possess powerful serrated mandibles (jaws) for catching their prey, which they take and eat on the wing.

I discovered a wealth of fascinating information about these creatures in Virginia Carpenter's informative field guide, "Dragonflies and Damselflies of Cape Cod," which I studied in preparation for my survey efforts. Ginger, director of science and stewardship for the Conservancy's Rhode Island Chapter, has been researching dragonflies for almost 20 years.

I learned from her book that dragonflies and damselflies, while similar in form and behavior, are quite different. "Damselflies, much smaller ... than the dragonflies, are members of the sub-order Zygoptera ("similar wings")," Carpenter writes. "When at rest, most damselflies hold their wings neatly against the abdomen or slightly above it. Dragonflies belong to the sub-order Anisoptera ("unequal wings"), and are generally larger, more robust insects ... At rest, they hold their wings horizontally like those of an airplane."

North American dragonflies and damselflies range in size from less than 1 inch long to more than 4½ inches from head to tip. Fossil records show that 250 million years ago, in the Paleozoic era, dragonflies had a wingspan of 2½ feet! In today's world,

© Judy Preston




Ann Colson in the field.

large darners devour upwards of 300 mosquitoes a day, as well as bees, termites, greenheads, other small insects, and sometimes each other.

Throughout the summer I waded streams and ponds, chased across meadows, slogged through bogs, and scrambled over ridgetops in search of odonata. Their names float across the tongue: *Libellula luctuosa* (pied skimmer), *Calopteryx maculata* (ebony jewelwing), *Didymops transversa* (stream cruiser); and the colors: iridescent turquoise, brilliant violet, robin's egg blue, exquisite emerald green, and flashy "crimson pepper pod."

I've landed more than 200 dragonflies and damselflies—45 species, many of them county records—with my small but trusty net thus far. Even without a scientific background I'm able to recognize common species on the wing now, and no longer need to capture them. I plan one day to replace my net with a camera and, I suspect, my pursuit and study of dragonflies will become a lifelong work. 🌿

— ANN COLSON

THE CHAPTER INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WILD PLACES IN CONNECTICUT WITH US. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S NATURAL HISTORY WALKS ARE FUN AND INFORMATIVE—GEARED TOWARD PROVIDING A COMFORTABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE WHILE ALSO FINDING GREAT PLACES TO WALK AND CANOE. YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT NATURAL HISTORY, AND THE ECOLOGY OF A NUMBER OF SITES, INCLUDING THE CHAPTER'S TIDELANDS OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER, ONE OF THE LAST GREAT PLACES.  FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, CALL THE CHAPTER OFFICE AT 860-344-0716. BECAUSE WE WISH TO PROVIDE A HIGH QUALITY EXPERIENCE, PARTICIPATION IS LIMITED, AND RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE; IF YOU MUST CANCEL, GIVE US A CALL SO THAT INDIVIDUALS ON A WAITING LIST CAN BE CONTACTED. A MAP AND OTHER INFORMATION WILL BE MAILED TO YOU SHORTLY BEFORE THE WALK. WE WILL GO RAIN OR SHINE! PLEASE, NO PETS.

Birding at Selden Creek Preserve, Lyme

Saturday, May 17, 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Limited to 15 participants

Spend the early morning hours birding at this lovely upland preserve overlooking Selden Creek. Migrating songbirds, particularly warblers, will be the highlight. Binoculars and enthusiasm are essential, but no previous birding experience is needed. Assistant Director of Stewardship Dave Gumbart, the walk guide, has been birding for more than ten years.

Birding in the Northwest Highlands,

Salisbury

Sunday, May 18, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Limited to 10 participants.

Join Sunny Valley Preserve Director and expert birder Chris Wood on a birding adventure in Connecticut's scenic northwest corner. You can expect to see more than 100 species of birds in one of the state's busiest bird migration corridors. Chris has more than 20 years birding experience, and chaired the "Atlas of Breeding Birds in Connecticut" project. Bring a lunch, binoculars, and field guides. Some birding experience recommended. Ask about car pooling when you register.

Natural History Boat Tour at Whalebone Creek, Lyme

Friday, June 13, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Limited to 10 boats

This lovely, shallow circular cove off the Connecticut river is filled with the marvels of a freshwater tidal marsh community. We will take a leisurely tour, highlighting the dynamics and elements of marsh ecology. This cove is an important site for wintering bald eagles, as well as a good place to see numerous aquatic and marsh. Note: Participants must provide their own canoe/kayak and personal flotation device for each passenger.

Glaciers at Rock Springs, Scotland

Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. to noon

Limited to 15 participants

Come explore the glacial features of Rock Springs. We'll see landforms molded and left behind by glacial ice, and recreate an image of Rock Springs when tundra fringed the glacial margins. We'll learn how glaciers influenced today's landscape and vegetation. And, of course, we'll visit the site's special springs.

Paddle Pratt/Post Coves, Deep River

Friday, June 27, 10 a.m. to noon

Limited to 15 boats

Join us for a leisurely paddle (canoe or kayak) through these two adjacent freshwater tidal marshes. We'll wind our way through wild rice and pickerel weed, examine distinctive vegetation zones, and discuss the chapter's ongoing research, management,

and protection efforts at this key Tidelands site.

Note: Participants must provide their own canoe/kayak and personal flotation device for each passenger.

Tidelands Canoeing, Great Island Marshes, Old Lyme

Friday, July 11, 10 a.m. to noon

Limited to 10 boats

Come explore this unique and beautiful area with Judy Preston, Director of Science and Stewardship, and Dr. Juliana Barrett, Tidelands Program Director. We will talk about what makes this such a dynamic area, from nesting plovers to a wide variety of vegetation (both native and non-native), threats to the marshes, and stewardship of this most precious resource. Note: Participants must provide their own canoe/kayak and personal flotation device for each passenger.

Cathedral Pines: Life, Death and Beyond, Cornwall

Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m. to noon

Limited to 20 participants

A powerful testament of the power of localized tornados awaits the visitor to the Cathedral Pines Preserve. In just ten minutes in July 1989, three funnel clouds forever changed the course of Connecticut's largest stand of old growth pine and hemlock trees. Far from finding it discouraging, ecologists seek out this site to better understand the dynamics of forest succession—the slow process of a forest's regrowth and rejuvenation. Please join Judy Preston, director of science and stewardship, on a short, moderate walk to see the blowdown and learn more about the history of this fascinating site.

Selden Creek Canoe/Kayak Excursion, Lyme,

Saturday, August 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(please bring lunch)

Limited to 10 boats

IMPORTANT: CANOEISTS WITH AT LEAST INTERMEDIATE SKILLS ONLY

One of the Connecticut River's most scenic trips! Come join us on a tour of Selden Creek, where we will canoe through one of the state's most pristine freshwater tidal marshes. Note: In addition to providing their own boats and personal flotation devices for each passenger, participants will be responsible for a nominal parking fee at the launch site.

Pleasant Valley Preserve, Lyme

Saturday, August 2, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Limited to 15 participants

Once the inspiration for Connecticut's own school of impressionist painters, this preserve offers trails

through open fields and woodlands, past glacial kettle ponds and frontage on the Eight Mile River. Join Ann Colson, staff assistant/receptionist at the Connecticut Field Office, as she explores the preserve for dragonflies and provides an opportunity for you to get a closeup look at these fascinating insects. She will identify dragonflies, their genus and species, and discuss their habitat. Magnifying lenses welcome!

Ragged Rock Marsh, Old Saybrook

Friday, August 22, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Limited to 15 boats

Come explore the fascinating world of tidal wetlands just north of North Cove in Old Saybrook. We will talk about the elements of a healthy tidal marsh community, threats to the system, and stewardship of this special Tidelands site. Note: Participants must provide their own boat and personal flotation device for each passenger.

Lieutenant River, Old Lyme

Friday, September 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Limited to 10 boats

Please join Conservancy staff in an exploration of this brackish to freshwater tidal tributary of the Connecticut River. The canoe trip winds through hidden brackish meadows and tall reed grass and cattail marshes flanking the creek. The freshwater tidal shores provide a rich diversity of plant life and abound with marsh birds. Parts of the trip may be muddy, be sure to wear boots or old sneakers.

Note: Participants must provide their own boat and personal flotation device for each passenger.

Hollenbeck Preserve, Canaan

Saturday, September 20, 10 a.m. to noon

Limited to 20 participants

Please join Sunny Valley Preserve Director Chris Wood for an excursion in the lovely northwest highlands of Connecticut. This exemplary and highly diverse calcareous forested swamp is a patchwork of micro-habitats and presents an intriguing array of unique species. Open fields replete with birds, forested swamp and a meandering river add to its beauty. The terrain is flat and the walking will be easy.

Iron Mountain, Kent

Saturday, October 25, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Limited to 20 participants

Travel to the northwest corner of the Western Highlands of Connecticut to explore this beautiful hardwood forest. Explore communities of huckleberry, blueberry, and fern and discover some of the unusual species, such as the pink lady's slipper orchid, common to more northern forests. Remnants of charcoal pits and iron mines scatter the landscape and add to the natural history component of this walk.

Convocation of Land Trusts on April 19

The Land Trust Service Bureau will hold the 14th Annual Convocation of Land Trusts on Saturday, April 19. Northeast Utilities has generously offered once again to host the convocation at the company's Berlin offices.

Workshop topics will include land protection tools and their tax benefits; liability for land trusts; the impact of land preservation on the local tax base; invasive species in Connecticut; land trusts and state and local politics; getting support for open space in today's political climate; vernal pools; protection of a different type of wetland; planned giving and estate planning; and building support for your land trust: membership and fund raising.

The day-long event will include displays on forest stewardship programs, Geographic Information System computer mapping and the Department of Environmental Protection Bookstore. The Land Trust Service Bureau would like to include various displays of local land trust efforts during the past few years. If your land trust has published a brochure, calendar, walk book, noteworthy newsletter or anything in which you think other groups might be interested, please contact us and we will provide a space for you to display your information.

The Land Trust Service Bureau number is (860) 344-9867.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON...

- ...work parties, please call David Gumbart at (860) 344-0716.
- ...The Den or Katharine Ordway preserves, please call (203) 226-4991.
- ...The Sunny Valley Preserve please call (860) 355-3716

Advance registration required for all walks, unless noted otherwise, and number of participants is usually limited to 20.

Griswold Point Work Party, Old Lyme Sat., March 29, 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Join chapter staff for one of our most popular work days, preparing a nesting area for the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and least tern (*Sterna antillarum*).

Den Photography Exhibition Weston Public Library

Mon., March 17 through Fri., April 11 during regular library hours.

Amateur and professional photographers will display their work taken at The Den or Katharine Ordway Preserve.

Let There be Light! at The Den Sun., April 6, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Celebrate daylight-saving time with an easy two- to three-mile hike led by Dorothy Abrams and Greg Izzo.

Herp Search, The Den

Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Search for frogs and salamanders during breeding season with Dr. Nelson Gelfman. Minimum age is eight. (See May 2 for a similar kid program!) Please dress in warm clothes with waterproof footwear, and bring a flashlight.

Workday at The Den

Sat., April 12, 9 a.m. to noon

Come enjoy spring and help us prepare the trails.

Spring Butterflies! at The Den

Sun., April 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Lepidopterist Vic DeMasi will identify spring woodland butterflies and moths, and discuss how to attract them to one's property.

Tree and Shrub Identification, Katharine Ordway Preserve

Sun., April 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Preserve Manager Fred Moore will show how to identify trees by bud, twig, and bark.

Adult Hike, The Den

Mon., April 14, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Led by Weezie Bachler and Helene Weatherill.

Earth Day Hike, The Den

Sat., April 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Eight- to ten-mile hike led by Tom Failla and Marci Kendall. Bring water and a lunch.

Family Nature Walk, The Den

Sun., April 20, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Led by Amy Beebe and Penny Kemp.

Earth Day Work Party, Sunny Valley Preserve

Sat., April 26, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Help clear trails at our Sunny Valley Preserve in New Milford. Bring a lunch. Call for directions and to RSVP.

Burnham Brook Work Party

April 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come with gloves to help remove barberry.

Saugatuck Valley Trails Day Hike

Sun., April 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Eight- to ten-mile hike led by Jonathan Brochstein and Cia Marion. Bring water and a lunch. Call The Den for meeting directions.

Herp Search for Kids, The Den

Fri., May 2, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sue Roth will help six- to nine-year-olds find amphibians. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a flashlight and waterproof footwear.

Herp Search, The Den

Fri., May 2, 7:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Led by Sue Roth. Minimum age is ten. Please bring a flashlight and waterproof footwear.

Workday at The Den

Sat., May 3, 9 a.m. to noon

Come enjoy spring and help us prepare the trails for visitors.

Falkner Island Work Party

May 3 & 4

Help set up nesting areas for the federally endangered roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). Call David Gumbart for details, (860) 344-0716.

Spring Wildflowers,

Katharine Ordway Preserve

Sun., May 4, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Identify spring wildflowers with Julia and Frank Conway and Helene Weatherill.

Five-Mile Hike, Weston

Sun., May 4, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Led by Amy Beebe and Phil Poirier. Please bring water and a snack, and call The Den for directions to meeting place.

Spring Migrants, Katharine Ordway Preserve

Sat., May 10, 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with Den ornithologist Dr. Lise Hanners on a search for songbirds. Please bring binoculars and a bird book.

Adult Hike, Katharine Ordway Preserve

Tue., May 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Led by Mary Callahan and Annette Sandstrom.

Saugatuck Valley Trails Day Hike

Sun., May 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Moderately strenuous eight-mile hike led by Jonathan Brochstein and Cia Marion. Please bring water and lunch, and call The Den for directions to meeting place.

Great Pond Work Party, Glastonbury

Sat., May 17, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Help us prepare the trails.

Family Nature Walk, The Den

Sun., May 18, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Led by Ben Oko and Helene Weatherill.

Do Something Wild on Your Tax Return!

A wide variety of Connecticut's animals and plants benefit when Connecticut residents donate part of their state income tax refunds to the Endangered Species/Wildlife Checkoff Program.

State taxpayers have donated a total of \$187,000 to the Wildlife Fund in the past three years by indicating on their tax returns that they wish to donate part of their refunds to Department of Environmental Protection programs that assist rare plants and animals.

Some of the projects receiving funding include the construction and installation of nesting boxes at fourteen locations for the state-threatened barn owl (*Tyto alba*); an assessment of toxic contaminant levels in ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) to determine which of them might be affecting that species; surveys of rare plants, which have identified species never or not recently seen in

Connecticut; studies of the state-endangered timber rattle-snake (*Crotalus horridus*), and an endangered dragonfly, the banded bog skimmer (*Williamsonia lintneri*); and management of tern, heron and egret habitats.

In addition, the DEP is using checkoff funds in its initiative to revive the Natural Area Preserves program, under which certain state park and forest lands are managed to protect rare species or communities of species.

The Connecticut Chapter introduced to the legislature and helped secure passage of the Checkoff program in 1993 as a means of generating funds for the Natural Area Preserves and Endangered Species

programs, which had long been underfunded.

Help us spread the word by mentioning the tax checkoff to your friends and to your tax preparer.

— DAVID SUTHERLAND

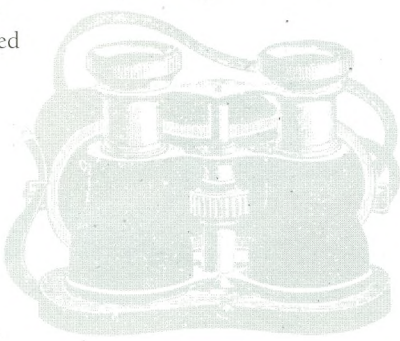


Remembering Roger Tory Peterson

Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, world renowned naturalist, author, artist, and longtime friend of The Nature Conservancy, died last July at the age of 87.

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, established in 1984, is cooperating with the Houghton Mifflin Company on a project of compiling remembrances of Dr. Peterson from those who knew him or have a personal story or anecdote to relate about him. The institute is interested in hearing from those who encountered Dr. Peterson in the field, heard him speak, or were influenced to become involved in natural history through the Peterson Field Guides. Photographs for the institute's archives are of particular interest.

If you would like to share a remembrance of Dr. Peterson, please write to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, 311 Curtis St., Jamestown, N.Y. 14701, or to tom@rtpi.org on the Internet.



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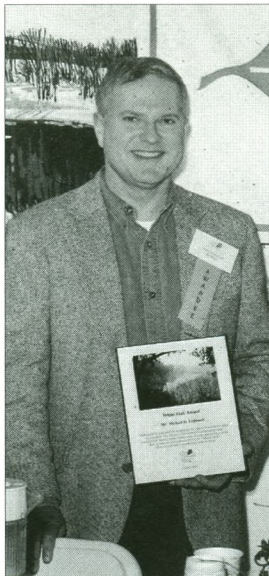
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From the Land

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IN MEMORIAM

The Connecticut Chapter has lost three long-time allies in recent months. We offer our sympathies to the families of these faithful friends, and dedicate our work in the months ahead to their memory.

EDWARD C. CHILDS 1905 to 1996

Edward "Ted" Childs of Norfolk was one of the chapter's vital supporters, and played an important role in creating the Beckley Bog Preserve, the Conservancy's first in Connecticut. He was a founding member of the Berkshire-Litchfield Environment Council and vice chairman of the Connecticut Park and Forest Commission.

DR. FRANK E. EGLER 1911 to 1997

Dr. Frank Engler of Norfolk served on the Conservancy's national board of governors and was instrumental in the founding of the Connecticut Chapter. He was among the donors of land at the chapter's Phelps Research Area in Colebrook, adjacent to the 1,100-acre Aton Forest Preserve, which Dr. Engler established.

PETER M. STERN 1924 to 1996

Peter Stern of Glastonbury was a long-time member of the Conservancy's Glastonbury sub-chapter, was among the original advocates of creating Glastonbury's Great Pond Preserve, and served as chair of the Glastonbury Conservation Commission.

Corporate Citizens Can Fuel Conservancy Efforts

BY MICHAEL D. FULLWOOD

The New York Times recently reported that the World Conservation Union now believes one fourth of the world's mammals and more than ten percent of the world's bird species are threatened with extinction. Only a few days later, the same newspaper reported that Connecticut ranks next to last among Northeastern states in the percentage of its land preserved as open space.

These reports, linked by the dependence of any living organism on its environment, were new alarm bells to those of us concerned about what we are doing to our environment. The Nature Conservancy stands nearly alone in its approach to countering these trends. By identifying through solid science the key sites that need preservation, then taking steps to save those sites, the Conservancy is rendering an invaluable service to the Earth's future.

We all must work to forge an alliance among individuals and companies to support this effort. Historically, the Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter relied upon its base of individual members to raise funds to support its work. Recently, the chapter initiated efforts to unite with corporate partners in raising funds, and though only beginning, the effort is paying off.

Several dozen Connecticut Companies are now "Corporate Associates," contributing a

minimum of \$1,000 per annum in support of the Conservancy's initiatives. More than \$100,000 was raised last year through this program, over twice the sum raised the previous year.

All of us who believe in the Conservancy's goals need to work to introduce companies to the Conservancy. This may mean the company that we work for, which might have an employee committee that has input into the company's charitable contributions program. It may mean companies in our neighborhood that would be responsive to community suggestions on environmental support. Or it may mean companies that we have contact with through friends, family, town governments or other sources.

The Corporate Associates program is of the utmost importance to accomplishing the Conservancy's goals. Businesses can come to see the benefits to them and to their employees in supporting our chapter. And when companies see those benefits, we can guide them to support the organization that probably is doing more over the long term for the good of our state and its environment—and I mean "environment" in the broadest sense—than any other.

Michael D. Fullwood has been a member of the chapter's Corporate Advisory Board since 1994.

The Nature Conservancy
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